

(b) if so, the details of the agendas discussed and decisions taken;

(c) the details of action plan worked out for the current year with State-wise allocations of funds approved for release to the States, for the current year-under the Central schemes, scheme-wise; and

(d) details of the major projects under implementation in Maharashtra and the targets set for each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A conference of State/UT Ministers of Youth Affairs & Sports was held on 12th February, 1997 at New Delhi in which the Draft New National Sports Policy was also discussed.

(b) Besides the Draft New National Sports Policy, other agenda items on the sports side which were discussed in the Conference are as follows :-

- (i) Role of the State Governments, vis-a-vis, the Central Government in promotion of Sports and games.
- (ii) Bringing Sports on the Concurrent List of the Constitution.
- (iii) Rural Sports Programme.
- (iv) Integration of Physical Education and Sports with School Curriculum.
- (v) Introducing school level competitions at block, district, State and National levels.
- (vi) Establishment of an All India Council of Physical Education.
- (vii) Holding of National Games.

The views of State/UT Governments were invited on the above issues, based on which steps have been initiated to finalize the New National Sports Policy.

(c) Financial assistance is given to States/UTs under the scheme for creation of sports infrastructure against proposals, complete in all respect, received from them. No State-wise allocation is presently worked out. The current years total revised allocation under the scheme is Rs. 6.35 cr. which has been fully utilised.

(d) No major project has been approved in Maharashtra during the current year. However, out of a total grant of Rs. 20 lakh approved, in principle, during 1993-94 under the scheme of creation of sports infrastructure, an amount of Rs. 18 lakh has been released as first instalment during the current year towards construction of an Indoor Stadium for Badminton by Shri Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal at Amravati in Maharashtra.

Border Dispute between India and China

1501. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any border dispute between India

and China;

(b) if so, since when it is pending and remained unsolved; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve this dispute ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) There are outstanding issues with regard to the India-China boundary question which have been under discussion between the two Governments since the 1950.

These issues are being discussed by the two countries in the Joint Working Group, established after the visit of Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi in December 1988, and the Expert Group, set up subsequent to the visit of Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao in September 1993. The Joint Working Group has met nine times and the Expert Group has met four times.

While reiterating the determination to resolve the boundary question in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner, the two sides have agreed, in the interim, on concrete measures to ensure that peace and tranquility is effectively maintained in the border areas.

Persons of Indian Origin in Hong Kong

1502. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons of Indian origin residing in Hong Kong at present;

(b) the number of those who are Indian citizens; and

(c) the number of persons in Hong Kong who have applied for Indian citizenship ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) There are approximately 28,000 persons of Indian origin residing in Hong Kong at present.

(b) Out of these, 22,000 persons are Indian nationals holding Indian passports.

(c) It has been the consistent position of the Government of India that the British Government has basic responsibility towards BDTC and BN(O) passport holders and that it should take the necessary steps to safeguard the status of these persons as British citizens. The British Government has announced on 4.2.1997 that solely British ethnic minorities residing in Hong Kong could apply for registration as British citizens, giving them right of abode in the United Kingdom, after 30th June, 1997. The number of people who have applied for Indian citizenship is 5 in 1996 and 2 in 1997.

Satellite Link to Calicut Passport Office

1503. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link the Calicut Passport Office with satellite;